

RACE RELATIONS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 3, 2025
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present Councillor Juanita Nathan
 Claudette Rutherford
 Ali Mtairek
 Rochel Padiachy
 Edward Choi
 Steve Yan

Members Absent Satya Arora
 Madge Logan
 Braman Thillainathan

Staff Present Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator
 Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Race Relations Committee Meeting convened at 6:14 PM.

The Chair, Claudette Rutherford, commended the Mayor's Black Youth Committee for a successful panel discussion that advocated for the interests of Black Youth in Markham on February 3, 2025, at a City Black History Month event. She noted that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Women's Day, and Irish History Month are observed in March.

Special guests, Nancy Mitchell, Carlos Wright and Samar Mudawi from the Diversity Institute at the Toronto Metropolitan University were in attendance for an information session related to the York Region Police Equity Audit (item 5.1).

Special guests, Dr. Kien Nam Luu and Shane Clodd from the York Region District School Board were in attendance to introduce a special art initiative, Shadows of Racism Art Exhibition (item 7.1).

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES - DECEMBER 2, 2024

Moved By Councillor Juanita Nathan

Seconded By Rochel Padiachy

That the December 2, 2024, Race Relations Committee Minutes be adopted.

Carried

2.2 BUSINESS RELATED TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business related to the previous minutes.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the March 3, 2025, Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.

3.1 RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA - MARCH 3, 2025

Moved By Councillor Juanita Nathan

Seconded By Rochel Padiachy

That the Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda for March 3, 2025, be approved.

Carried

4. NOMINATION FOR VICE-CHAIR

This item will be placed on the June 2, 2025, meeting agenda for consideration.

5. DIVERSITY INSTITUTE

5.1 VIRTUAL SESSION INFORMATION -SERVICE DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Nancy Mitchell, Carlos Wright and Samar Mudawi from the Diversity Institute at the Toronto Metropolitan University were in attendance for an information session related to the York Region Police Equity Audit.

Ms. Mitchell indicated that they have supported different organizations with equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility work since 1989, and that they are involved in the City's Diversity Action Plan and the Elimination of Anti-Black Racism Plan. Ms. Mitchell and her team conducted a session

during the meeting to obtain community perspective from committee members on employment practices and service design and delivery with York Region Police.

The Chair noted concerns with over policing, racial profiling and that comfort levels may differ across the community. She welcomed a community engagement strategy to build trust among black community members and offered to assist Ms. Mitchell and her team in this regard.

6. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

6.1 SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

A sub-committee needs to be re-established to guide the planning and delivery of future *Many Faces of Markham* events. Further discussion will be scheduled to determine the future direction of the initiative

7. SCHOOL BOARD INITIATIVE

7.1 THEMED ART CURATION - SHADOWS OF RACISM

Shane Clodd and Dr. Kien Nam Luu, addressed the committee to introduce Shadows of Racism, an art curation as it pertains to anti-Asian racism, and equity diversity and inclusion workshops where works of art are produced by York Region District School Board students. Mr. Clodd and Dr. Luu requested a partnership with the City to use Great Hall as the venue to display the art and to promote an alignment with the Race Relations Committee. The event is suggested to take place over several days to allow students, teachers, schools, community members an opportunity to visit the exhibit with a presentation on the opening day. Details on the events dates will be confirmed in the coming days.

The committee congratulated Mr. Clodd and Dr. Luu on their prior success and for coming to the meeting to present this community outreach opportunity. The committee offered their support for this event and will review the requirements with staff to confirm plausibility.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 ANTI-RACISM LEARNING SESSION/TRAINING

There was a brief discussion about training opportunities related to team building and deepening knowledge on the overarching theme of race

relations. With new members soon joining the group, Kinya will engage the team to identify knowledge needs and help shape a plan for future initiatives

8.2 RECRUITMENT

Kinya advised that recruitment for new members is underway and that additional members will be introduced at the June meeting.

Edward Choi announced that today was his last meeting and that his term with the committee has ended.

On behalf of the committee, Claudette thanked Edward Choi for his contribution and dedication to the Race Relations Committee over the years.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 2, 2025, at 6 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Edward Choi

Seconded By Councillor Juanita Nathan

That the Race Relations Committee Meeting adjourn at 7:57 PM.

Carried